

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A process, comprising:
adsorbing at least one organic compound with the adsorbent as claimed in Claim 44.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 13, wherein said organic compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of nonpolar, poorly water-soluble, water-insoluble, light oil, heavy oil, and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 13, wherein said organic compound is either emulsified, dissolved, or floating in water.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 13, further comprising separating said organic compound from said adsorbent.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 13, wherein said organic compound is at least one oil selected from the group consisting of a light oil or a heavy oil, and wherein said filler is present in an amount of 100 to 1000 phr.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 13, wherein said organic compound is soluble in water, and wherein said filler is present in an amount of greater than 1000 to less than or equal to 2000 phr.

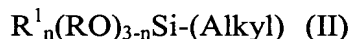
Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 13, wherein said adsorbent is present in an article or apparatus selected from the group consisting of cushion, hose, suction boom, stationary bed column, suspension reactor, fluidized bed reactor, and combinations thereof.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 13, comprising contacting said absorbent with water, said water being contaminated with said organic compound.

Claims 21-43 (Canceled).

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): An adsorbent, comprising:

a pulverulent rubber having a particle size distribution of from 0.4 to 10 mm and a pore structure having a majority of macropores, which comprises at least one filler, wherein the filler is a natural or synthetic filler selected from the group consisting of an oxide filler, a silicate filler, a precipitated silica gel, a pyrogenic silica gel, and a mixture thereof, and wherein a surface of the filler is modified with one or more organosilicon compounds of formula (II) or (III):



wherein

R^1 : each independently represent a branched or nonbranched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenyl group;

R : each independently represents a branched or nonbranched C_1 to C_4 alkyl or C_1 to C_4 alkoxy group or a phenyl group;

n : 0, 1 or 2;

Alkyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched saturated hydrocarbon group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Alkenyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon group with 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the total amount of the filler does not exceed 5000 phr individually or in combination, and wherein the filler is bound with the rubber, and

phr is per hundred parts rubber.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent according to Claim 44, wherein the filler is present in an amount of from 100 to 5,000 phr.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent according to Claim 44, wherein the rubber comprises SBR rubber.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent according to Claim 44, wherein the rubber further comprises carbon black in an amount of from 100 to 2,000 phr.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent according to Claim 44, wherein the rubber further comprises rubber flour in an amount of from 100 to 3,000 phr.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent according to Claim 44, wherein the filler comprises sodium aluminosilicate in an amount of from 100 to 3,000 phr.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent according to Claim 44, wherein the filler comprises zeolite in an amount of from 100 to 3,000 phr.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent according to Claim 44, wherein the rubber has a total pore volume of from 1.0 to 4 ml/g.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent of Claim 44, wherein the pulverulent rubber is selected from the group consisting of a natural rubber, an emulsion SBR with a styrene proportion of 10 to 50%, a butyl-acrylonitrile rubber, a butyl rubber, a terpolymer of ethylene, propylene and a non-conjugated diene, a butadiene rubber, an SBR rubber synthesized by a solution polymerization method and having a styrene content of 1,2-vinyl constituents of from 20 to 55%, an isoprene rubber and a mixture thereof.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent of Claim 52, wherein the isoprene rubber is 3,4-polyisoprene.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The adsorbent of Claim 44, wherein the pulverulent rubber has mesopores of 2 to 30 nm and macropores greater than 30 nm in a ratio of from 1:2.5 to 1:22.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): An adsorbent, comprising
a pulverulent rubber having a particle size distribution of from 0.4 to 10 mm, which comprises at least one filler, wherein the filler comprises sodium aluminosilicate, and wherein a surface of the filler is modified with one or more organosilicon compounds of formula (II) or (III):



wherein

R^1 : each independently represent a branched or nonbranched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenyl group;

R: each independently represents a branched or nonbranched C_1 to C_4 alkyl or C_1 to C_4 alkoxy group or a phenyl group;

n: 0, 1 or 2;

Alkyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched saturated hydrocarbon group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Alkenyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon group with 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the total amount of the filler does not exceed 5000 phr individually or in combination, and wherein the filler is bound with the rubber, and
phr is per hundred parts rubber.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): An adsorbent, comprising
a pulverulent rubber having a particle size distribution of from 0.4 to 10 mm, which comprises at least one filler, wherein the filler comprises a zeolite, and wherein a surface of the filler is modified with one or more organosilicon compounds of formula (II) or (III):



wherein

R^1 : each independently represent a branched or nonbranched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenyl group;

R: each independently represents a branched or nonbranched C_1 to C_4 alkyl or C_1 to C_4 alkoxy group or a phenyl group;

n: 0, 1 or 2;

Alkyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched saturated hydrocarbon group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Alkenyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon group with 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the total amount of the filler does not exceed 5000 phr individually or in combination, and wherein the filler is bound with the rubber, and
phr is per hundred parts rubber.

Claim 57 (New): The adsorbent of Claim 44, wherein the pulverulent rubber has no micropores.

Claim 58 (New): The pulverulent rubber of Claim 44, having a oil-adsorption capacity of up to 300% of its own weight.

Claim 59 (New): The adsorbent of Claim 44, obtained by:
preparing a suspension of the filler with water, then
mixing the suspension with one or more of the organosilicon compounds of formula (II) or (III),
mixing the suspension containing the organosilicon compound with a polymer latex, polymer emulsion or a polymer solution, then
lowering the pH to precipitate a pulverulent rubber containing the fillers.

Claim 60 (New): An adsorbent, comprising:
a pulverulent rubber having a particle size distribution of from 0.4 to 10 mm, which comprises at least one silicate filler,
wherein a surface of the filler is modified with one or more organosilicon compounds of formula (II) or (III):



wherein

R^1 : each independently represent a branched or nonbranched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenyl group;

R : each independently represents a branched or nonbranched C_1 to C_4 alkyl or C_1 to C_4 alkoxy group or a phenyl group;

n : 0, 1 or 2;

Alkyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched saturated hydrocarbon group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Alkenyl: a monovalent straight-chain or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon group with 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the total amount of the filler does not exceed 5000 phr individually or in combination, and wherein the filler is bound with the rubber, and

phr is per hundred parts rubber.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 13-20 and 44-60 are active in the present application. Claims 13-20 are non-elected claims currently withdrawn from prosecution. Claim 44 has been amended to state that the pulverulent rubber has a pore structure having a majority of macropores. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found on page 8, lines 29-31. Claims 57-60 are new claims. Support for new Claim 57 is found on page 8, lines 29-31. Support for new Claim 58 is found on page 10, lines 22-25. Support for new Claim 59 is found on page 7, lines 7-31. Support for new Claim 60 is found in previous Claim 44. No new matter is added.